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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: SMITH, Carl K. et al.

Group Art Unit: Not Known

International Application No.: PCT/GB99/02623

Examiner: Not Assigned

Confirmation No.: Not Known

Atty. Dkt. No.: MIDR 704

International Filing Date: 09AUG 1999  
(09.08.1999)

For: SHALE-STABILIZING ADDITIVES

**First PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING  
37 C.F.R. 1.8

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the US Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on the date below:

Date

Signature

Before undertaking the examination of the above noted application, Applicants hereby request the following:

**AMENDMENTS:**

**IN THE SPECIFICATION:**

Please amend the specification in the following manner:

On page 1, line 1 of the specification, please insert the following text, This is a U.S. National Phase entry under 35 USC §371 of International Application No. PCT/GB99/02623, filed 09 AUG 1999 (09.08.1999) designating the US which claims priority to British Patent Application No. 9817780.1 filed 15 AUG 1998 (15.08.1998) the contents of both being herein incorporated by reference.--

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Amended claims 1-11 are currently pending in the application. Please amend the claims in the following manner: